AP US History

Chapter 9 Questions

1. In what ways did democracy in America change in the years leading up to Andrew Jackson’s rise to the Presidency and from his early political decisions?

The main way that democracy changed was voting that lead up to AJ’s rise to the Presidency. In the new states in the West, they adopted constitutions that guaranteed that all adult white males had the right to vote and gave all voters the right to hold public office. Due to this the old states had done the same by beginning to grant similar political rights to their citizens, dropping or reducing their property ownership or taxpaying requirements; every state changed it to some degree, varying from state to state. Also the rules of the state senate changed, their new system now represented property not people. The forces of democratization prevailed in the states. More importantly, the legislature had chosen the presidential electors in 10 of the states, people in only six, but later electors were chosen by popular vote in every state.

1. Describe the conflict between John C Calhoun and Martin Van Buren. How did Jackson react? What were the outcomes?

John C. Calhoun’s wife had refused Eaton’s wife as a cabinet wife, with the rest of the administration wives. Jackson’s reactions were that he was furious and demanded that they accept her into their social world. Since Calhoun had refused due to pressure from his wife, Van Buren had befriended the Eatons and made himself friends with AJ, thus the outcome was that he was made the secretary of state, so later he would become the next president which Calhoun had resented.

1. What were the reasons behind Jackson’s war on the Bank of the United States? What were the outcomes of this battle?

His reasons were that he opposed to concentrating power in the federal government-the bank was one institution under the federal government and that he was against all banks that used paper currency since one of his businesses failed because of it. (New): More reasons were that it supported the elitists instead of the common man (which Jackson was sort of president of) and that the leadership of the bank was extremely corrupt, and that it printed out so much worthless paper money that caused an inflation, favored northern states over south and west where his supporters are, financial status was centralized into this facility. The outcome of the battle was that he was victorious, government deposits were gone now and the country lost a valuable institution that would plague the country for more than a century.

1. What was significant about the appointment of Roger Taney as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?

The significance of Taney’s appointment to Chief Justice was that he had changed the view on economics. John Marshall had always made decisions (mostly about economics) that helped the federal government instead of the states. Now that Taney was appointed-those decisions had changed, he now chose any new businesses over old businesses that changed the judicial review and more importantly it reflected one of the cornerstones of the Jacksonian ideal.

1. What were the key political differences between the Democrats and the Whigs?

The key political differences was that their philosophies and the character of their leaders were different (however when it comes to elections, they were similar). The Democrats’ philosophy was that they believed the role of government should be limited and they had wanted to expand economic and political opportunities for white males. The Whigs’ philosophy on the other hand was that that wanted the power of federal government to expand and encouraged industrial and commercial development, and union of the nation into a consolidated economic system, was careful about westward expansion unlike the Democrats. Some other views were that Democrats opposed legislation establishing banks, corporations, and other modernizing institutions which the Whigs favored.

1. Explain the outcomes and significance of the 1836, 1840, and 1844 presidential elections. How did the 1840 election change politics?

Martin Van Buren had won in 1836, Whigs lost, importance was that in Buren’s presidency, the panic of 1837 occurred which Buren had taken the hit after there was a stimuli of economics growing. In 1840, William Henry Harrison had won, Democrats had lost, the significance was the change in politics, Whig diplomacy had taken over, in that time made important decisions and treaties. In 1844, the Whigs have lost…significance may have been that it was the end of Whig diplomacy.